

News Release



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CLEVELAND -- National City Bank today announced a special grant of \$300,000 to The Cleveland Museum of Art in support of a major exhibition of the works of the Swiss-German artist Paul Klee, one of the outstanding creative figures of the twentieth century. *(pronounced CLAY)*

The grant, announced by Edward B. Brandon, president of National City Bank, is the largest corporate gift ever made to The Cleveland Museum of Art.

The exhibition, organized by The Museum of Modern Art, New York City, is the first retrospective of Klee's works in 20 years. It consists of approximately 165 paintings and watercolors and 84 prints and drawings selected from museums and private collections in Europe and America, and includes a large group of rarely lent works from the Klee Foundation in Bern, Switzerland.

The exhibition will open at The Museum of Modern Art in February of 1987 and will have its only other U.S. showing at The Cleveland Museum of Art, from June 24 to August 16, 1987.

"We are pleased to have the opportunity to sponsor an artistic event of this importance," Brandon said. "We also take special pride in the selection of The Cleveland Museum of Art for this outstanding exhibition."

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"The sponsorship of the Klee show is a reflection of National City Bank's longstanding commitment to the creative and performing arts," Brandon said. "It is a commitment that recognizes not only their intrinsic cultural value but their importance of the increasing richness of a lifestyle that is a vital part of greater Cleveland's renaissance.

"We believe that the Klee show, as a major national art event, will contribute substantially to the stature of Cleveland and we are proud to join with the Museum to make it possible," he said.

Cleveland Museum Director Evan H. Turner commented, "I speak for great numbers of Clevelanders in expressing deep appreciation that National City Bank should have made this generous contribution to bring to Northeast Ohio this splendid selection which brilliantly conveys the genius and the charm of a remarkable artist."

Klee is regarded as one of the most prolific and inventive artists of the twentieth century. During his lifetime 1879-1940, he produced more than 9,000 paintings, drawings, and etchings.

Experimenting with figurative and abstract styles, Klee evolved a rich pictorial language of his own and achieved a reputation as one of the greatest colorists of his age. The exhibition at the Cleveland Museum will present the full range of Klee's art in all its unparalleled diversity, from drawings produced in his teens to the masterpieces and experimental works of his mature years.